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Consumer Price Index Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI CMSA August 2002

Consumer prices in the Chicago-Gary-Kenosha area increased 0.2 percent in August, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. This follows a 0.5 percent setback a month earlier and matches the monthly gain in August 2001. The August Consumer price Index for All Urban Consumers was 181.6 (1982-84=100). Chicago area retail prices rose 2.0 percent over the past 12 months. This was in-line with annual gains averaging 2.5 percent in the previous three years.

Sharp hikes in the apparel and the education and communication components were largely responsible for the latest monthly rise, according to Regional Commissioner Peter J. Hebein. A moderate gain in the transportation component also contributed. A small gain in recreation costs was not an important factor. Much of these increases were offset by a moderate decline in the heavily weighted housing component. Setbacks were also noted in the other goods and services, medical care, and food and beverages components.

Table A. Percent Changes in the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI
(not seasonally adjusted)

(not seasonally adjusted)		Changes from preceding month							12 mo. ended
Expenditure Category		2002							Aug. '02
		Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	
All items		0.4	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.4	-0.5	0.2	2.0
Food & beverages		0	.2	.1	.7	-1	-9	-1	.7
Housing		.7	.2	1.2	.6	.7	-7	-4	3.0
Apparel		4.1	.3	-3.1	.5	-3.5	-1.4	5.2	-2.7
Transportation		-.3	3.1	1.6	-.1	.1	-.6	.5	.3
Medical care		.3	.4	-1.2	.7	.1	1.2	-.3	2.9
Recreation		.2	0	-1.7	-1.7	1.1	.4	.3	-1.3
Education & communication		.3	-.2	-.4	-.2	-.2	.7	2.4	4.3
Other goods & services		-.1	-1.0	2.5	-.2	2.2	.2	-.8	6.4

Apparel costs jumped 5.2 percent from July to August following monthly declines averaging 2.7 percent in three of the past four months. Over the past year, the apparel component was 2.7 percent lower.

The education and communication component rose 2.4 percent in August due to higher costs for tuition and other related fees for the new school year. Over the past 12 months, the education and communication component was 4.3 percent higher. This was up from annual gains averaging 2.7 percent over the previous three years.

Transportation costs rose 0.5 percent in August following a similar decline a month earlier. Most of the latest increase was due to a 1.6 percent hike in gasoline prices. Gasoline prices remain 1.8 percent lower than their year-ago level. This follows annual gains averaging 11.8 percent in the previous three-year period.

Housing costs declined for the second consecutive month, falling 0.4 percent in August after dropping 0.7 percent in July. All three housing sub-categories contributed with fuel and utilities costs falling 2.2 percent; shelter costs dipping 0.2 percent; and household furnishings and operation costs declining 0.9 percent. Within the fuel and utilities group, all of the setback was attributed to a 6.5 percent fall in the utility natural gas index. Over the year, housing costs were up 3.0 percent. This was comparable to the 3.2 percent average annual rise over the previous three years.

The food and beverages component posted its third consecutive monthly setback, slipping 0.1 percent in August. Falling grocery food prices (food at home) offset a 0.3 percent rise in the cost of food away from home and a 0.6 percent hike in the cost of alcoholic beverages. Over the year, the food and beverages component was up only 0.7 percent following annual gains averaging 2.2 percent over the prior three years. Grocery food prices were down 1.1 percent from a year ago and the cost of dining out was up 2.5 percent for the year.

The medical care component slipped 0.3 percent in August after posting a large hike in July. Over the year, medical care costs rose 2.9 percent, down from a 4.8 percent annual gain a year earlier.

The other goods and services component fell 0.8 percent. Compared to a year ago, the component was 6.4 percent higher. This follows annual gains averaging 3.0 percent over the previous two years.

The recreation component rose 0.3 percent over the month but posted a 1.3 percent drop from a year ago.

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Scheduled release date for the September 2002 CPI:
Friday, October 18, 2002

CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U.S. City Average and for the Chicago area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI Hotline service. This recorded message also provides percent changes from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The Hotline number in Chicago is (312) 353-1880, menu option 2.

BLS FAX-ON-DEMAND SERVICE OFFERS CPI DATA 24 HOURS A DAY

If you have a fax machine and a touch-tone telephone, you can order current and historical CPI data and receive it within minutes by fax. The BLS Fax-on-Demand service offers over 280 documents containing the most popular BLS data including more than 65 documents containing CPI data for the nation, four regions, and 30 metropolitan areas. To receive by fax a catalog of documents available on the service, call 312 353-1880, select menu option 1, and when prompted, order document 1000.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPI's for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels and a few other items are obtained every month in all 87 location. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 26 local area. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities, they only measure the average change in prices for each base period.

The index measure prices changes from a designated reference data - 1982-84 that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see the BLS Handbook of Methods, Bulletin 2490, April 1997, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2002	July 2002	Aug. 2002	Aug. 2001	June 2002	July 2002
Expenditure category						
All items	182.1	181.2	181.6	2.0	-0.3	0.2
All items (1967=100)	543.9	541.4	542.5	-	-	-
Food and beverages	179.5	177.9	177.8	.7	-.9	-.1
Food	178.4	176.7	176.5	.5	-1.1	-.1
Food at home	186.0	182.7	181.9	-1.1	-2.2	-.4
Food away from home	164.7	164.7	165.2	2.5	.3	.3
Alcoholic beverages	194.6	195.0	196.2	4.5	.8	.6
Housing	188.8	187.4	186.6	3.0	-1.2	-.4
Shelter	230.5	228.9	228.5	4.2	-.9	-.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	222.5	221.9	221.6	2.1	-.4	-.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	238.1	236.8	236.9	5.2	-.5	.0
Fuels and utilities	130.5	130.0	127.2	-1	-2.5	-2.2
Fuels	117.5	116.8	113.7	-8	-3.2	-2.7
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	120.6	119.8	116.5	-8	-3.4	-2.8
Electricity ¹	110.1	110.1	110.1	-5.0	.0	.0
Utility natural gas service ¹	135.8	133.9	125.2	4.5	-7.8	-6.5
Household furnishings and operations	111.6	110.2	109.2	-2.1	-2.2	-.9
Apparel	97.1	95.7	100.7	-2.7	3.7	5.2
Transportation	149.9	149.0	149.8	.3	-.1	.5
Private transportation	146.3	145.1	145.9	.2	-.3	.6
Motor fuel	133.2	129.9	132.0	-1.7	-.9	1.6
Gasoline (all types)	132.1	128.8	130.9	-1.8	-.9	1.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	131.0	127.2	129.5	-1.4	-1.1	1.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	140.2	137.0	139.1	-1.8	-.8	1.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	129.6	126.3	128.5	-2.7	-.8	1.7
Medical care	278.1	281.5	280.7	2.9	.9	-.3
Recreation ⁵	106.8	107.2	107.5	-1.3	.7	.3
Education and communication ⁵	113.8	114.6	117.3	4.3	3.1	2.4
Other goods and services	295.7	296.2	293.9	6.4	-.6	-.8
Commodity and service group						
All items	182.1	181.2	181.6	2.0	-.3	.2
Commodities	146.7	145.3	145.9	-.8	-.5	.4
Commodities less food and beverages	127.5	126.2	127.1	-1.7	-.3	.7
Nondurables less food and beverages	140.0	138.3	140.1	.3	.1	1.3
Durables	112.1	111.3	111.4	-3.7	-.6	.1
Services	215.7	215.3	215.4	3.7	-.1	.0
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	177.4	176.4	176.8	1.9	-.3	.2
All items less shelter	165.9	165.3	165.9	.8	.0	.4
Commodities less food	130.2	128.9	129.8	-1.5	-.3	.7
Nondurables	160.2	158.6	159.5	.7	-.4	.6
Nondurables less food	143.6	142.0	143.7	.6	.1	1.2
Services less rent of shelter ²	209.8	210.8	211.6	3.1	.9	.4
Services less medical care services	210.3	209.7	209.8	3.8	-.2	.0
Energy	122.7	120.9	120.1	-1.0	-2.1	-.7
All items less energy	189.9	189.2	189.7	2.2	-.1	.3
All items less food and energy	192.8	192.2	192.8	2.5	.0	.3

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

² Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

³ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.